

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 01964 011049Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----073144 011050Z /17

O R 011022Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
SECSTATE WASHDC 5247

S E C R E T AMMAN 1964

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US, XF, OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.)
SUBJECT: ATHERTON VISIT

1. COURT CHIEF SHARAF, WHO RETURNED EVENING FEBRUARY 28
TO AMMAN, WAS IN TOUCH WITH ME THIS MORNING. KING'S
PRESENT PLAN IS TO RETURN FRIDAY, MARCH 3. ON THAT
BASIS, SHARAF FEELS MEETING MARCH 4 WITH ATHERTON WILL
BE NO PROBLEM. SHARAF EMPHASIZED THIS IS KING'S DECISION,
AND MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO POSTPONEMENT BY ONE DAY.

2. IN EVENT OF POSTPONEMENT, WHICH WOULD BE FOR A MAXIMUM ONE
DAY ONLY, SHARAF BELIEVES MEETING LATE SATURDAY, MARCH 4
OR MORNING, MARCH 5 WILL BE POSSIBLE. KIRCHSCHLAEGGER ARRIVING
1400 SUNDAY, MARCH 5 AND THEREFORE MEETING WOULD HAVE TO
TAKE PLACE BEFORE THAT TIME. WHILE SHARAF SEEMS QUITE CONFIDENT
KING WILL BE HERE FRIDAY, THOUGHT YOU OUGHT TO KNOW
ABOUT ALL POSSIBILITIES IN THE EVENT SOME POSTPONEMENT
OF MARCH 5 DEPARTURE FOR RIYADH WOULD BE REQUIRED.

PICKERING

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PAGE 02 AMMAN 01964 011049Z

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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